

California GARDEN

10c



New Rose "Sweet Memorie"

as exhibited at the Second National Rose Show,
San Diego, California, by the originator,
Forrest L. Heatt

NOVEMBER
1 9 3 6

What My Garden
Means to Me

By Coralinn B. Tuttle

The
Chrysanthemum
Show

By Ada Perry

Arecastrum
Romanzoffiana

By K. O. Sessions

HARRIS SAYS:

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October Meeting

W. J. Pope certainly had the women of the Floral association on the edges of their chairs at the October meeting. He showed them thousands of the most beautiful potential orchid corsages in the world, in every hue imaginable. But, alas, the orchids were on slides and all us girls could do was yearn and try to keep from bursting into tears.

If orchids become a hobby in San Diego, Pope will surely be responsible. He believes they can be grown here in much greater profusion than they are and not all in greenhouses either.

To hear him speak of them is enough to make one want to try them. One of the finest orchid collections in the world was in his charge at one time. This was in the east before the importation bans on orchids and the collector was a wealthy woman who was spending the last years of a long life growing these flowers. What a way to end one's stay on earth.

Mr. Pope's slides were taken from this collection and they are undoubtedly very valuable because many of the flowers they show are not grown in the United States now. They were so beautiful and so interesting. There were a few Cattleyas among them but it was easy to see that these hefty show orchids were not as cherished by Mr. Pope as rare and exquisite native orchids from India, Mexico, the Philippines and South America. Your correspondent harbored a suspicion that

he thought Cattleyas a little common which is a nice howdy-do for Peggy Joyce after all these years.

Miss Kate Sessions was present and Mr. Pope's orchid treat was ably seconded by her. Mrs. Mary A. Greer, president, announced the very nice offer by the Julius Wangeheims of their beautiful garden for the annual chrysanthemum show the last day of October and the first day of November.

Ada Perry.

November Meeting

E. P. Zimmerman, of Carlsbad, California, will address the members of the San Diego Floral Association at their regular monthly meeting Tuesday, November 17th. The subject will be hybrid clivias and other bulbous plants. Mr. Zimmerman's collection of hybrid clivias in many color shadings have attracted widespread interest in this plant. The meeting will be held in the Chamber of Commerce Auditorium, Columbia and Broadway, San Diego, at 7:30 p. m.

Christmas Decoration Show

The Junior League Garden Club will hold a Christmas Decoration show on Tuesday, December 15th at the home of Mrs. Phillip Bartlett, 434 West Thorn St., 11 a. m. to 6 p. m., 7:30 p. m. to 9 p. m. Exhibits will include table and flower arrangements. Christmas

packages, wreaths, trees and other forms of holiday decorations. A small admission will be charged and proceeds will go to the San Diego Floral association. Further announcements will be made in the newspapers.

Mrs. John Wimmer.

Garden Pictures

I know a corner, flanked by a natural color lattice fence, behind which a tall pittosporum is just now flashing its old gold marble like berries in the sun, and over which a pale blue plumbago and a cerulean blue thumbergia grandiflora run riot and vie with a deep blue solanum, winking its jaunty yellow eye. In front, overtopping the six foot fence, lavender clouds of the lace-like, tall perennial asters wave in all directions. Interspersed with the lavender, are spikes of purple salvia leucanthia, which give a note of accent. At the base of the lavender-aster cloud are yellow day lilies, and in the immediate foreground grows a group of golden chrysanthemums.

From an upper window, a vista through the shimmering foliage of the parkinsonia aculeata, takes in this intimate beauty spot and then extends to the soft gray-brown hills sloping away to the blue waters of the bay.

Alice Mary Greer.

This department, "Garden Pictures" conducted by Hazel Boyer Braun in memory of Harriet Sefton Campbell.

New Donations to the Cactus and Succulent Gardens in Balboa Park

By C. I. Jerabek

Recently Mr. Howard E. Gates, of Anaheim, California, gave nearly all of the cacti and other succulent which he had on exhibit during the San Diego Exposition to Balboa Park for a permanent display.

Following is the list of the species, all names marked with an asterisk are new genera or varieties not heretofore found in the garden.

To The Aloe And Agave Garden:

- *Fouquieria diguettii
- Fouquieria splendens
- *Fouquieria bunageana
- *Jatropha canescens
- Two Hechtia texensis
- *Four Hechtia sp. from Lower California
- *Sixteen Gasteria Retata
- *Pedilanthus macrocarpus
- *Hesperoyucca sp. from Lower California
- Rochea falcata
- *Furcraea culvensii
- *Agave connochaetodon
- *Agave datylio
- *Agave new sp.
- *Agave pachyacantha
- Pereskopsis porteri
- *Pereskopsis chapistle
- Pereskia Periska
- *Agave sp.
- *Agave orcuttiana
- *Agave goldmanii
- *Agave solria
- *Agave margarita
- *Agave sebastiania
- *Agave vexans
- *Agave nelsonii

To The Cactus Garden:

- Harrisa Martinii
- Harrisa tortuosa
- Lemaireocereus thurberi
- *Lemaireocereus Littoralis
- *Dendrocereus mediflorus
- Nyctocereus Serpentina
- Cereus hildmannianus
- *Trichocereus Pachanol
- *Pachycereus pecten-aboriginum
- *Neomammillaria capensis
- *Neomammillaria bullardiana
- *Neomammillaria gabbi

- *Myrtillocactus cochal
- *Machaeocactus gummosus
- Lophocereus australis
- *Lophocereus gatesii
- *Three Lophocereus schottii monstrosus
- *Grusonia hamiltoniae
- *Grusonia rosarica
- *Grusonia Santa Maria
- *Ferocactus torulospinus
- *Ferocactus fordii
- *Ferocactus coloratus
- *Ferocactus vizcainensis
- Four Ferocactus viridescens
- *Three Ferocactus viridescens var. Littoralis
- Six Bergercactus emoryii
- *Five Cochemeia poselgeri
- *One Cochemeia setispina
- *One Cochemeia maritima
- *Four Cochemeia Haleii
- *Echinocereus brandegeei
- *Echinocereus scuirens
- *Echinocereus barthelowanus
- *Two Echinocereus feneinae
- Five Echinocereus engelmannia
- *Echinocereus pacificus
- *Echinocereus maritima
- A large Acanthocereus Honduriensis
- Opuntia alcahes
- Opuntia bravoana
- Opuntia cholla
- *Opuntia ceribe
- *Opuntia clavellina
- *Opuntia commonduensis
- *Opuntia invicta
- *Opuntia pycnantha
- *Opuntia serpentina variety
- Opuntia tesajo
- *Opuntia Gates No. 95
- Opuntia molesta
- Opuntia versicolor
- Opuntia subulata
- Opuntia microdasy
- Opuntia vulgaris
- Opuntia vulgaris var. variegata
- Opuntia rufida
- Opuntia santa rita
- Opuntia robusta
- *Opuntia lagunae
- *Opuntia sp. cristata

In the November issue there will

November Begonia Cultural Notes

By J. PAUL WALKER

Begonias require very little care during this month. One need water them only every few days, with an extra watering on warmer days. Ground grown plants of all types stand up better than pot grown ones and one may find Rex, fibrous and even some tuberous plants in good condition.

FIBROUS — Potted plants are showing signs of dormancy. Plants in the ground, especially those in an east exposure, should continue to do well all month. It is best not to fertilize or force any of the summer bloomers at this time, though small amounts of plant food may be given those winter bloomers that are showing blossoms or buds.

BEDDING — Summer grown plants should be cut back any time now. They will then make strong bushy growth next year. This is especially true of plants that are heavy with seed, as the seed saps the vitality of the plant and may cause it to die during the cool weather.

Seed may now be sown in a warm place for spring planting. Winter blooming varieties may be planted in the full sun or on the east side in a protected place.

REX — Large plants should still be holding up very well, especially if they were not forced by feeding or by the heat of summer. One need not be alarmed if many or all of the mature leaves fall off of small plants. Such plants generally put out more vigorous growth in the spring.

One may well be planning a heated frame for starting Rex cuttings during the winter. By using this method one will usually secure earlier and larger plants the first year.

American Begonia Society Bulletin

be a list of Mrs. McCabe's donation. These two gifts and Mrs. Neff Bakker's Epiphyllum make a grand addition to the Succulent Gardens.

What My Garden Means to Me . .

By Coralinn B. Tuttle

Because of the character of my husband's business we lead a nomadic existence, moving every two or three years to new cities, but it has always been our policy to join one or more civic organizations in each community wherein we have been stationed. Of all the groups I have belonged to from coast to coast, I believe the one from which I derived the most, and to which I have the most lasting memories was a garden club in the city of San Diego, in Southern California. Organized about 30 years ago for the purpose of encouraging home gardeners to grow more and better flowers and trees for beautifying the city, the San Diego Floral Association has certainly fulfilled its purpose. Its founders and its members include many famous names in the world of horticulture, tireless workers for the organization. A magazine published since the founding of the club has a subscription list going all over the world. The material within its pages having unpretentious common sense advice for home gardeners based on practical experience of the writers.

For many years the president, Mrs. Mary A. Greer, and her board of directors has consistently held fast to the original policy of the club which insists on Amateurs First.

Since the first year of organizing two flower shows have been staged each Spring and Fall, besides lovely Rose, Chrysanthemum, Berried Shrub and Spring Bulbs flower teas in season. These shows are unique because, although professional exhibits may be shown, they can only be entered as artistic displays, and anything smacking of commercialism is barred. Ribbons and simple vases are the only awards presented and all expenses of the show are met by a small entrance fee. Yet somehow these bi-annual events compare in size and beauty with the shows in most of our larger

cities. Home gardeners love to bring in their choice blooms, the results of many hours of loving care, for the mere joy of having them admired by others. Large estates stage beautiful non-competitive displays. It was my privilege while living in San Diego to assist in staging flower shows, and although, because of my mad infatuation for Iris, I was always in charge of that section, I found myself wandering into the artistic flower arrangement section ever so often. It intrigued me to sense the expression of individualities in the amateur exhibits. Noting how differently the same flowers were arranged in perhaps the same types of containers proves to me how difficult it will be to get many people to agree on greater issues than flower arrangements. After a year or so of observation I began to timidly try my hand at making flower scenes on the stages of beautiful containers and the satisfaction from the results brings me to "What my garden means to me." I have spoken of the San Diego Floral Association because through it I received my inspiration to grow flowers. Probably my garden serves an entirely different purpose for me than yours does for you. Perhaps your garden is a perfect landscaped setting for your house. It may mean neat squares of lawn with the usual borders of shiny leaved shrubs, a few roses and colorful bedding plants, or it may be a rear garden arranged for an out-door living room, or it may be a rock garden of strange succulents and cacti, or perhaps a sort of garden museum wherein you have collected rare plants and trees. If I could ever hope to live in any one place long enough I would like to have a combination of all of these gardens. As it is I strive to have a garden that will provide me with a flower every day of the year to bring into my home. That school of Japanese flower arrangement which teaches that peace and repose are created

by simple beauty that will not cause a sense of envy in the eye of the beholder, has helped me to value even little wild grasses and simple flowers which can be brought into the house to add lustre to the plainest surroundings. Before curtains are hung in a new home, seasonal plants are put into the ground; next we get permission from our landlords to put in a pool. We have scattered pools all over the U. S. and you are perhaps wondering why we would go to the expense of installing pools in other people's property but it is a simple matter for us, as a family, to dig a hole two or three feet deep and the size and shape we want, mix a batter of one part cement and two of sand and, armed with pancake turners and what have you, line it to the desired thickness, cover with wet sacks for a day or two, then flood well with fresh water. In the pool we can grow a lily or lilies, depending on the size of pool, and other delightful water plants that make pleasing effects floating in low bowls in the house. By flooding the pool every week or two we can grow lovely swamp Iris and graceful reeds and grasses around its edges. If I were a garden doctor I would prescribe a pool without drainage for every garden. The evaporation seems to benefit the whole place. My New England soul cries out in agony when I see pools with elaborate drainage systems in this land of little water. I think each of us has our special love in the flower family. Mine is the Iris. She lends herself so beautifully to arrangements and if I only had a few feet of garden space I am sure that I would plant one or two Iris and nothing else. As it is I try to collect every type and color. Even in the winter a grey green fan in a flat bowl gives a certain satisfaction to me. I have a friend who only grows the latest and largest types of Iris, constantly discarding old favorites and if a stalk is not the exact length and the flowers the size expected it is a tragedy. But I always try to have in my garden that old favorite Caterina which, when watered plentifully, grows

(Continued on Page 4)

The Chrysanthemum Show . . .

By ADA PERRY

It rained beautifully the night before the annual chrysanthemum show. The P. A. (press agent) called Miss Alice Greer on the phone. She had not heard of the show being canceled. President Mrs. Mary A. Greer had also not heard of such a thing.

That's the stuff the association's made of. Saturday, October 31, saw a beautiful collection of 'mums in the equally beautiful Julius Wangerheim garden at First and Juniper. Ribbons were awarded and visitors came in with eager faces, to see the 'mums and the garden. One said, as she gazed at the wall fountain banked with basketball-sized specimens and at the pool set off with tubs of cut sprays and at the tables under the pergola and veranda roofs holding arrangements, "I do love chrysanthemums and I've always wanted to go inside the gates of this garden."

This explains why the association did not give up its show and why it was so generous of the Wangerheims to offer their garden haven for the display.

To continue, it rained in a meditative fashion Saturday night. And Sunday, November 1, saw even finer exhibits in the gardens. C. H. Hoxel decided to add his flowers to the Taniguchi, George Marston, Arthur Marston, Charles W. Winkler and

Mrs. Herbert Evans beauties. Sunday was a fine day, bringing a fine turnout.

Besides the exhibitors mentioned there were many others. Beautiful arrangements were displayed by Mrs. O. C. Evans, Misses Etta and Lydia Schwieder, Miss Helen Trevey, Mrs. John Nuttall and others. This does not pretend to be a complete list. Dewey Kelly contributed the originality (he has a genuine bent this way) with his outdoor salad set of rainproof vinegar and oil jugs. C. I. Jerabek's 'mums showed the cleanest foliage. Small girls Rosalind and Marilind Tyler made a plaque for the show. Los Surenos Art Center sent in an arrangement in care of Mrs. Arthur Shoven and it would be nice if they made a rule inviolate to enter all association shows.

Mrs. Shoven and John Morley were judges. Show committee was Mrs. Mary A. Greer, Mrs. George Gardner, Miss Etta Schwieder, Mrs. John Nuttall and Elsie Case. Hostesses for the shows, and what a nice thought as well as deed, were Mrs. Julius Wangerheim, mistress of the garden; Mrs. Robert Morrison, recently returned from the east, by the way; and Misses Alice Klauber, Leda Klauber, Alice Greer, Alice Halliday and Etta Schwieder.

a pretty picture in a little rice bowl from Chinatown which has wisteria of the exact shade of rose painted on it. Rose colored double petunias are grown just for a lacquered copper bowl. Venidiums and calendulas are planted early in the Spring for a low orange and green pottery bowl and in April tawny Chrysanthemums are planted to supply the same bowl in the Fall. I have already planted some orange red oriental poppies and carefully kept some wild Shiver Grass from being weeded out so that in the Spring I shall have one of my favorite flow-

er pictures in an antique copper bowl. I could go on and on about flowers and vase combinations that I love. Because of our never being permanent tenants, we never plant roses, begonias, ferns or other plants requiring water and care, although we love them. In the Fall we tuck a few bulbs in the ground always with an idea of what flower arrangements they will make in the Spring. A few stocks and snapdragons go in now, also, although we know that it is best to wait until Spring for planting them. A berried shrub or two, and if we feel reckless of expense we put in a flowering fruit tree as we hope the tenants following us might gain some happiness from their beauty. Towards Spring I begin to buy packages of seeds of certain kinds so that they can be planted just as soon as possible when the winter chill is out of the air, such as Gypsophila, Godetias, Linaria, linum, Clarkia, colored candytuft, corn flowers, calliopsis, all lovely fillers for mixed flower arrangements and easily grown. I always buy bedding plants of stock, snapdragons, delphinium, columbine, calendulas and pansies, as a dozen or two plants give me plenty of flowers and it is a long process and for the amateur difficult to grow them from seed. In April a few dahlias, Chrysanthemums and African Marigolds will provide for fall flowers. I have on hand always a wonderful book issued free by the College of Agriculture of U. of C. called "Home Floriculture in California" by Butterfield. It is absolutely fool proof as it does not encourage one to grow Azaleas and Rodendrons in Southern California or Sahuaro cacti and poinsettias in our redwoods of the north.

I hope that I have given you an idea of the joy that has come to me and my family through this system of flower budgeting.

The foregoing article was prepared for a radio address which was delivered from a station in the San Francisco bay district. The author has been one of the California Garden's valued contributors for a number of years.

What My Garden Means to Me

(Continued from Page 3)

lovely mauve butterflies on twisty stems making for lovely effects in a tall gold colored vase. Tall beardless Iris in blue or raisin purple are grown for a tall blue green pottery vase. I use other Iris with a fan or two for low pottery or bronze dishes. A common little wild plant of rose Yarrow provides me with

Arecastrum Romanzoffiana

By K. O. SESSIONS

In 1860 W. J. Hooker described and figured in the Botanical Magazine a handsome palm and named it *cocos plumosa*. It had been in Kew gardens a long time growing in the glass house and blossomed and bore fruit the first time in 1859. It had been received from a British nurseryman as a Brazilian species. Hooker did not know that it had been described 38 years previously as *Cocos Romanzoffiana* by a post-botanist in a book called *Picturesque Voyage*, written by an artist who had accompanied a voyage around the World, fitted out by the Russian Count Nikolai Petrovitch Romanzoff. The Palm was found on the island of Santa Catharina in Southern Brazil in December, 1815, 121 years ago. When that 2-year journey was ended the ship anchored in front of the Count Romanzoff's Palace in St. Petersburg. In 1826 this name appears in a book published in Munich by Carl Frederick Phillip Von Martins, a botanist who was the first great student of Palms.

In the course of time this palm and its relatives became better

known and the botanical material accumulated and the genus of *Cocos* established by Linnaeus had specimens that were decidedly different. An Italian student, O. Baccari, in 1916 broke up the genus *Cocos* making seven new sub genus. One was *Arecastrum*, which had been previously so named because of the arrangement of the flowers on the rachilla, like that of the Old World genus *Areca*—and in 1916—only 20 years ago—it was made a distinct genus. The specific name *Romanzoffiana* must remain as being the first individual name given to it, so it now is botanically permanently known as *Arecastrum Romanzoffiana*. The palm *Cocos-Australis* and its 15 varieties are now known as *Butias*.

Cocos nucifera, the coconut palm, is the only *Cocos*. Its very large nut and the quantity of milk contained in the nut is different from all the others that were called *Cocos*. Their seeds are nut-like but small, very hard and solid. The 3 little hold-like spots on the end of the nut are characteristic of all these palms, however.

been wonderfully improved and beautified.

Two hibiscus shrubs, grown into trees, make a blaze of flame-color; strawberry guavas, and an avenue of graceful pepper trees, borders and beds of bright annuals and perennials together with roses and flowering shrubs, make the Quarantine Station one of the beauty spots around San Diego.

SEEDS

Their Place in Life and Legend

The subject of seeds is very near to my heart, so when I saw that the Frederick A. Stokes Co. had published a book about them I sent for it post-haste. It is written by Vernon Quinn and deals with "their habits and uses and travels, of those poisonous and edible and of divers ancient and strange beliefs and superstitions about them." (Vernon Quinn: *Seeds, Their Place in Life and Legend*. N. Y. Stokes, \$2.00).

The output of literature dealing with plants is great, but the little seed from which each plant makes its beginning seldom gets the attention deserved by its tremendous store of potential beauty. Miss Quinn's "Seeds" is a real contribution both to American floriculture and to horticultural folklore, both American and universal. The illustrations by Marie Lawson are delightful, particularly the frontispiece and the jacket decoration, and make one want to buy the book as a gift for each of one's flower-minded friends.

All botanical names have been omitted from the text but appear neatly arranged in the index—a piece of thoughtful intelligence in writing a book of this sort. There is much seed lore and much pleasant and curious related information, collected from all manner of sources and neatly tucked, every item into its appropriate chapter—altogether an attractive mixture of fact and fancies, science and superstitions.

Lester Rountree, Carmel, Calif.

The Rubber Tree

By NELLIE T. WATSON

Standing under the spreading branches of a great rubber tree (*Ficus elastica*), one is forcibly reminded of the most familiar line from Joyce Kilmer's "Trees." "Only God can make a tree."

Such a tree is found on the grounds of the United States Quarantine Station at Point Loma, California. This tree is thirty years old, the largest of its species in the United States, having a spread of a hundred feet and a height of sixty feet or more. This tree was planted by Captain J. H. Watkins, pilot, at Quarantine for 28 years.

With its smooth grayish-green trunk, and symmetrical branches it

is indeed a rare and beautiful specimen. The flowers grow in tiny white clusters, as does the fruit, which very much resemble the edible fig, as it well may, since the rubber tree belongs to the fig family (*Ficus Carica*).

This tree is a native of Central and South America and Mexico; is intensively grown in the tropics, where it is tapped for the milk-like fluid, which enters largely into our commercial rubber.

Under the supervision of the present commanding officer, Medical Director Hugh de Valin of the United States Public Health Service, the Quarantine grounds have

Question Box . . .

By R. R. McLEAN

QUESTION: I am writing to ask for help on our lawn. It has finally acquired the Bermuda and weeds of the neighborhood, but most destructive is the wild clover (*oxalis*) which is taking the lawn. We have tried digging it out, also rough raking and it thrives. Several neighbors have uniform lawns of a short, broad leaf grass which roots even Bermuda. They do not know what it is or where they got it, and I am unable to find out anything about it at the seed store.

W. N. B.

ANSWER: With reference to your lawn, it may be said that it requires much time and effort to keep lawns free of Bermuda grass. Seeds are carried by the wind and are distributed in the water and by birds. If pure seed is sown thickly and all Bermuda plants are removed as they appear, one can keep a lawn relatively free of them, but it is a constant fight. A Bermuda grass lawn can be made to look quite respectable—in the spring and summer at least—if kept well cut and trimmed, and it given sufficient water and fertilizer. In the winter however, the less said about it the better. Presumably the broad leaved grass you have reference to is what is known as Crab or Water grass. It makes a very fine showing in spring and summer, actually crowding out even Bermuda, but it dies down in the late fall, and the lawn looks even worse than if it had Bermuda. The only remedy apparently is to get good seed and sow it thickly and, as with Bermuda, roguing out the little water grass plants as they appear.

The *Oxalis*, if that is what is injuring your lawn, loves an acid soil. A little lime, therefore, scattered over the lawn should make conditions less favorable for the growth of this pest. If you care to experiment, you might get some iron sulphate and dissolve, say, a pound and a half to two pounds in a gallon of water and sprinkle over the worst infested places. This should kill the weed and slightly burn the grass, but owing to a different manner of growth, the latter will be only temporarily injured. Try this in a limited

way, preferably, before using the solution over a large area.

QUESTION: Please tell me what is the matter with these leaves, taken from a "Seven Sisters" running rose bush, and how to treat them. I have sprayed the bush with lime and sulphur solution and "black 40."

Mrs. M. A. B.

ANSWER: The rose leaves of the Seven Sisters rose plants are no doubt infested with one of the unimportant diseases attacking roses, especially climbers, probably either a condition described as leaf spot or anthracnose. Description of either of these diseases fits their condition. Anthracnose would probably also be apparent on the canes, especially old canes, by small purplish or grayish spots. Control is quite impractical on full-grown climbers, but any standard rose fungicide, such as Bordeaux mixture, Ammoniacal Copper Carbonate, Potassium Sulphide, etc., would do if applied thoroughly. Cecile Brunners are particularly susceptible to this condition. My advice would be to remove some of the older wood and keep the plant growing well by giving it good care which includes fertilizer, irrigation, pruning, etc., and forget it, as the trouble is ordinarily not very important.

In addition to the above, the writer also suggests the possibility of sun and wind injury in part to a possible lack of water during periods of very hot weather and low humidity.

QUESTION: Can you give me any information about the care of a bent grass lawn? I have one planted but it does not seem very satisfactory, burns out in places and requires too much care. Can it be grown from seed? What fertilizers are necessary?

L. D.

ANSWER: Bent grass is rather shallow rooted, although it gives a heavy top growth and produces a matted set of roots. As you have undoubtedly found out, it requires frequent cutting and fertilizer. In the winter, however, dressing of fertilizer. Bent grasses originate in a moist, cool climate, as a rule, and do best in a soil tending towards

acidity. Our climate is relatively hot and dry and our soils are nearly all definitely alkaline. This means that we are attempting to grow such grasses under conditions that are rather unsatisfactory to start with. This fact probably accounts for much of the difficulty encountered in growing Bent grass in arid parts of California.

A top dressing of ammonia, 30 to 50 pounds per 1,000 square feet of surface, should be applied occasionally, both as a fertilizer and for the purpose of increasing the acidity of the soil. It may be dissolved in water and sprinkled on the surface or it may be mixed with sand or fine soil and scattered by hand as evenly as possible. The lawn should be kept well fertilized and in a slightly acid condition, if possible. As a rule a top dressing of some kind should be applied after each cutting. The grass must be sprinkled frequently, particularly in warm dry weather, else dry burnt spots will appear in the lawn.

To grow Bent grass successfully from seed it is much safer to plant it in the late fall or early winter rather than in spring or summer. As indicated previously, it is a moisture loving plant, and will thrive much more vigorously in cool weather than in hot.

QUESTION: The wild fig vine in front of my house is getting too thick. Would like to replace it by one more suitable. Please advise me what you would suggest. House faces south.

E. D.

ANSWER: One of the finest climbers we have is the bougainvillea—particularly the crimson variety—Crimson Lake. However, presuming your house is of wood, and painted, it might not harmonize very well. This vine cannot be planted in locations subject to heavy frosts. The star jasmine, rejoicing in the name *Rhynchospermum jasmoides*, is a hardy evergreen climbers which bears sweet-scented, star-like flowers. It is not very fast growing, however. It bears fragrant white flowers. The bignonia or trumpet flowers, most of them evergreen, are very beautiful and are generally rather rapid growers. *Viola* is one of the best, bearing flowers of a delicate violet shade. *Vernonia* bears orange colored flowers. Any one of the vines would do very well on a south exposure.

Something—But Far From Everything—About Soils

By ALFRED D. ROBINSON

An ancient wisecracker said "the study of religion either finds a man mad or leaves him so;" and I am inclined to say the same of soils. Soil is a generic term which covers a wide variety of material which for the purpose here may be grouped as gravel, sand, loam and clay, classified by the size of the particles. By the use of these either separately or in combination we get an open and warm soil, or a closed and cold one. A very important added element is humus, a vegetable decay which is largely responsible for the moisture retaining quality. Soils are also classified chemically; but here we limit ourselves to acid, neutral or alkaline; and there are now on the market simple testing sets to determine these factors. Here water also plays a most important part. The majority of soils in Southern California tend to be alkaline; and as an equal percentage of the water supply is on the same side, irrigation is apt to increase this tendency.

Begonias, ferns and most lath house subjects prefer an acid soil, and it is mainly for that reason that leaf mold is the foundation of the compost used in their culture.

The mixture used at Rosecroft is one-third leaf mold (a mixture of

oak and manzanita, not screened and containing a lot of unrotted matter) one-third cow manure as fresh as it can be obtained, and one-third a sandy loam, a material that never bakes hard, but however dry will immediately absorb moisture. These three are composted in a bin, built up in layers of four inches with a liberal sprinkling of fine but granulated charcoal over the cow manure. Moisture is added as the bin is filled. This composting is merely a mixture and a waste of time unless it can stand three to six months, as one of the main objects is to take up the loss of bulk, amounting to some twenty per cent, before using. The bin is above ground, so that one side can be removed and the contents sliced down, so obtaining a real mixture.

A continual check for acid or alkaline content is maintained on the material going into the bin.

If your begonias are still slow in starting new growth, it is probably due to location or soil or the watering. Too much shade will retard growth. Wornout soil cannot furnish sufficient plant food for fast growth, and in such a case, the plant should be transplanted into new soil or fertilizer added. The lack of water, more especially the lack of a humid atmosphere surrounding the plants, is the more us-

ual cause of poor growth. Most begonias originated in countries of excessive rain fall; and we may well imitate this condition by watering with a fine spray. With good air circulation there is little danger of producing too humid an atmosphere. However there is danger of the potting soil becoming soggy if drainage is poor or soil too compact.

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FAIRY TALE

Fairies exist, I know, 'cause why?
A red throated hummingbird drifted by,
And the heart of a crimson rose became
A bath for this mite, while we played a game
As I carefully wielded the silvery shower
Which fell from the hose in that morning hour.

A dart, a flutter, a humming pause,
And the dreary static of man made laws
Fell shattered beneath the dainty blows
Of the wet winged elf in the garden rose,
And my wakening ear heard the faint far ring
Of a phantom bell . . . and fairies sing.

—Murray Skinner.

Dewey Kelly

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Wild Flowers of Southern California

Because it is both unfair and impossible to review a book which is "A Key to the Names of Flowers, Ferns and Trees" without giving it the test of actual usage, I waited until Carl Thurston's "Wild Flowers of Southern California" (Esto Publishing Co., Pasadena, \$4.00) had been my companion for most of the summer and had traveled with me over a thousand miles of southern California roads. It is pretty well thumbed by now and I feel more equal to the task of sending in a report on its working value.

On the jacket are several printed assurances that here at last is a wild flower book which anyone can use easily—that it is the reference book for the wayfaring man though a fool.

I have tried to pretend that I have not, after some years of travail, learned how to use the standard botanical books which are already at our disposal and which have employed the common denominator of universally established method in leading us to identifications of our California wild flowers. I have endeavored to think and act as though I were beginning all over again, didn't know how to go about it and was finding my chance through this book. If you are really a beginner or can put yourself in the beginner's state of mind this book of southern California wild flowers works very well.

It has attacked the age-old science of botanical determination from a new angle and offers a very good short-cut if you need one. If you are already well immersed in the standard method of digging out plant names you will probably want to continue up that well-worn path and not bother to explore a side track. But even though you may stubbornly stick to the old ways this book of Carl Thurston's is an added help and a good one, well worth sticking in the book-bag along with the rest of the botanies when you set out on a trip.

It contains five hundred and for-

Ruminations of a Dahlia Fancier . .

By M. C. PFEFFERKORN

It was one of my first ambitions, after building a home on Mission Hills, to become a gardener. I always loved flowers, although, to my regret, I did not know very much about the culture itself.

This was best demonstrated one day when I cut off some of the new shoots appearing on my rose bushes. All of a sudden I was told by a woman in no uncertain terms that I should let someone who knew something about rose bushes do the trimming, comparing me favorably with a woodchopper.

This episode took place just about twenty-five years ago. Recently the same woman stood in front of some of my dahlias, which I frequently display in our bank, admiring the flowers very much.

"Would you," said she, "do me a favor and write an article in the California Garden in regard to dahlias?" Now who could refuse such a request to one who has been the backbone of our gardens for so many years, one esteemed and beloved by everybody—no one else than our good friend Miss Kate Sessions.

I first became interested in dahlias through the late F. M. White, who used to bring baskets of dahlias to our bank; the display was always greatly admired. One day he offered me a handful of seeds from one of his choice flowers, and later on asked me to exhibit at a local seedling show.

I did not know a good dahlia from a bad one, but to my surprise won first prize. Naturally I became

quite elated over my ability as a dahlia grower, but soon learned that not all seeds, even if coming from the same flower, do produce prize winners. But my interest in the dahlia became strongly aroused and I am glad to say that the raising of these flowers has been a lifesaver to me on two occasions when I was seriously ill. I could hardly wait long enough to get out of doors and to dig my fingers into the ground.

A good many other prominent San Diego citizens who never knew of a hobby took up dahlia culture upon my advice and I know that they are happiest when amongst their flowers, always regretting when the season is at its end.

It is not hard to raise good dahlias, provided the soil is free of hardpan and other similar ingredients. Some of the finest varieties may be had at very reasonable prices, such as The Commodore, Jane Cowl, White Wonder, Jersey Beacon, Frau O. Bracht and Eagle Rock Fantasy. Tubers of the best grade may be bought at from 50c to 75c. I only mention these six varieties of all of them are excellent seed producers and their seed should develop into wonderful new varieties.

The raising of seedlings is to me most interesting and highly fascinating. I believe the space allotted me in this paper would not allow me to touch upon this subject fully nor permit me to mention my experience in putting tubers away over the winter season.

ty-seven excellent and most helpful illustrations from the author's photographs—although some of the pictures of flower parts, though fascinating as details, give no idea of the flower as a whole.

Since honest criticism is as much a part of the reviewer's job as honest praise, it should be suggested that the book isn't an immediate and instant panacea for the weak-minded, because it does take some

practice to work it and it can't be worked out without a slight touch of botanical knowledge, that it doesn't contain quite all of the wild flower species of southern California and that the user is unlikely to develop that ability to refer a new flower to its proper genus which is such an invaluable asset in enlarging one's speaking acquaintance with any flora.

Lester Rountree, Carmel, Calif.

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